

MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Tem Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt

Councilmember Judy Taylor Foster

Councilmember Travis Ferguson

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Attorney Nathan Lee

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Travis Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting. Vote was 4 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Elliott, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the December 2017 Treasurer's Report. Vote was 4 ayes.

The honorable Judge John Glisson administered the oath of office for Councilmembers Judy Taylor Foster and Solomon Ferguson.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Mayor Brening to reappoint City Manager Doug Westberry, City Clerk Lea Spell, Judge John Glisson and City Attorney Nathan Lee. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

In regards to recent state legislation requiring local government participation in Firefighter Cancer Insurance, the following two actions were taken by the Mayor and Council:

- (a) Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Travis Ferguson to adopt the "Resolution to become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Participate in One or More of Girma's Funds". Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.
- (b) Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Travis Ferguson to enter into the "Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Contract". Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
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Motion made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to adopt the 2018 regular council meeting dates. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Meliah McGregor with Last Chance Rescue appeared before the council to discuss her organization and request changes to the City's Animal Control Ordinance.

During her presentation, she brought before the council two emaciated dogs that had been rescued by her organization. She explained the condition of the animals as well as the situations in which they were rescued. She further explained that when a dog is rescued it is brought back to good health and then enters into an extensive rehabilitative program to modify any behavioral issues.

In her discussion, Ms. McGregor further explained how the use of a heavy chain had contributed to the ill health of one of the dogs. She requested the council remove from the current Animal Control Ordinance the word "chain" to prevent similar occurrences.

Mayor Brening expressed concern over how citizens would restrain their dogs if this was to be enacted.

Ms. McGregor explained that her organization would provide tethers to replace the chains.

After further discussion, a decision to thoroughly review and revise the existing ordinance would be the appropriate course of action.

In the Mayor's report and comment portion of the meeting, Mayor Brening officially welcomed new Councilmember Judy Taylor Foster. He expressed his appreciation for her willingness to serve and that he was looking forward to working with her.

He noted that the Recreation Department had kicked off basketball season with over 20 teams participating.

His final comments made mention of the great progress the City had made in 2017 and his expectations of an even better 2018.

City Manager Doug Westberry began his report by welcoming Councilmember Judy Taylor Foster.

He reminded everyone of the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and stated that non-essential city offices would be closed on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in observance.

In further comments, he apprised the council on Nextsite 360's activities and how pleased he was with the information they had gathered and provided so far. He encouraged the Mayor and Councilmembers to stop by his office to review.

He stated that the detour in the area of Judson Bulloch Road and Nebula Road were due to a county road project which should be completed next month.

An update on the pending sale of the City's gas system was given. Mr. Westberry informed the Mayor and Council that he had spoken with Liberty Utilities and they were 100% confident that the sale would go through. He also noted that the Public Service Commission would be notifying them of their approval of the purchase this month.

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In closing, Mr. Westberry noted that a fire hydrant was leaking at the corner of W. Main St and Broad. Repair of this will require the road to be closed. He also expressed his appreciation for citizen's patience with the many water line breaks experienced recently and noted that the city was averaging 1 to 1 1/2 per day. He thanked the citizens for their help in identifying leak sites and urged everyone to continue to report leaks as they see them.

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposed Blighted Property Ordinance. Mayor Brening explained various aspects of the ordinance and the reasons it would be beneficial for the City and its citizens. Councilmember Travis Ferguson stated that he felt it was very important for the City to act on the matter quickly and to not procrastinate in taking action on vacant properties. Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to adopt the ordinance with a change in Section 18-210 from three times to seven times "the normal millage rate applied to the property". Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made to adjourn at 6:09 PM by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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City Clerk Lea Spell

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Mayor Michael J. Brening